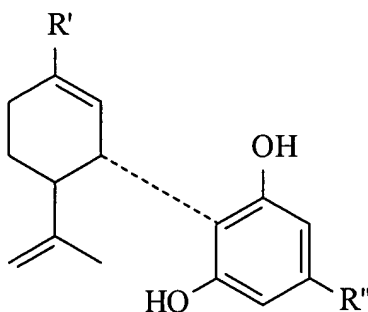


**Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An optically pure (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula I

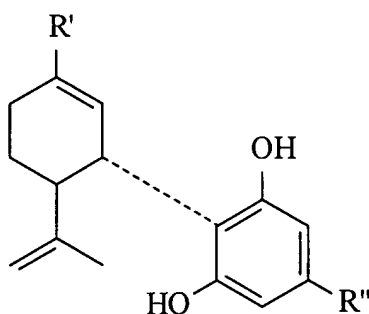
wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH<sub>2</sub>OH group, and
- R'' designates (i) a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group, or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group ~~[which may be optionally]~~ substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>—O—C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;

with the proviso that R' is not —CH<sub>2</sub>OH when R'' is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. (Original) The (+) enantiomer of claim 1, wherein R' is —COOH and R'' is a pentyl or dimethylheptyl group.

3. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient a compound ~~[of formula I wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 1]~~ of the formula:



Formula I

wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH<sub>2</sub>OH group, and

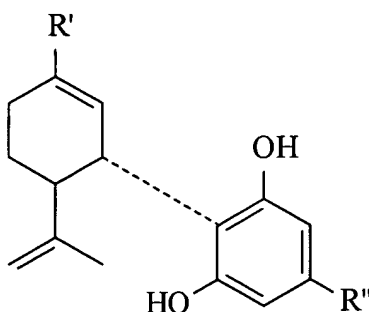
- R'' designates (i) a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group, or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>—O—C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;

with the proviso that R' is not —CH<sub>2</sub>OH when R'' is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof  
and

[optionally] further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive, excipient or diluent.

4 5. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3,  
[optionally] comprising an additional pharmaceutically active agent.

5 6. (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of a]~~ A (+) enantiomer of a compound of the formula:



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH<sub>3</sub>, -COOH or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, an -OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group ~~[which may be optionally]~~ substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester for use as a selective modulator of the peripheral cannabinoid system.

6 7. (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ The (+) enantiomer of [a ~~compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5 for use as an analgesic agent.

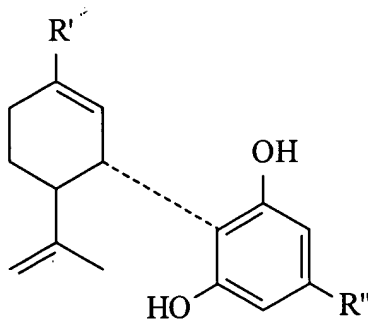
7 8. (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ The (+) enantiomer of [a ~~compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5, for use as a modulator of the immune system.

8 9. (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ The (+) enantiomer of [a ~~compound of formula Ia~~] claim 5 for use as anti-inflammatory agent.

~~9-10.~~ (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ The (+) enantiomer of [a compound of formula Ia] claim 5 for use as a modulator of the gastrointestinal tract.

~~10-11.~~ (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ The (+) enantiomer of [a compound of formula Ia] claim 5 for use as anti-diarrheal agent.

~~11-12.~~ (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the (+) enantiomer of a compound for formula (Ia) wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, in the preparation of a pharmaceutically composition for the selective treatment of disorders]~~ A method of selectively treating a disorder associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula



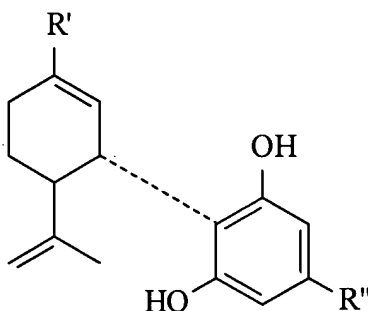
Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH<sub>3</sub>, -COOH or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, an -OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an

integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

12 13. (Currently Amended) The ~~[use]~~ method of claim 11, ~~[in the preparation of an analgesic pharmaceutical composition]~~ wherein said disorder is pain.

13 14. (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ A method of selectively treating an immune disorder associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula [Ia wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5]

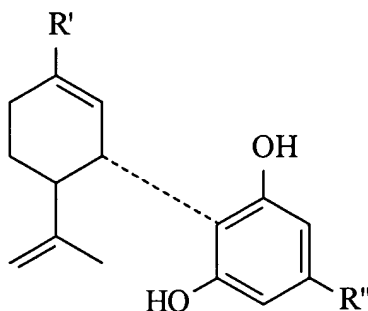


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH<sub>3</sub>, -COOH or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, an -OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof [in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of the immune disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system].

14 ~~15.~~ The ~~[use]~~ method of claim 13, ~~[in the preparation of an anti-inflammatory agent]~~ wherein said disorder is inflammation.

15 ~~16.~~ (Currently Amended) ~~[Use of the]~~ A method of selectively treating a disorder associated with the gastrointestinal tract in a subject in need, comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of (+) enantiomer of a compound of formula [Ia—wherein the substituents are as defined in claim 5]

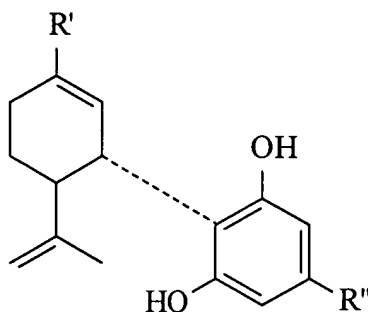


Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH<sub>3</sub>, —COOH or —CH<sub>2</sub>OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, an —OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a —(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>—O—C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof ~~[, in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disorder associated with the gastrointestinal tract].~~

16 ~~17.~~ (Currently Amended) The ~~[use]~~ method of claim 15, ~~[in the preparation of an anti-diarrheal pharmaceutical composition]~~ wherein said disorder is diarrhea.

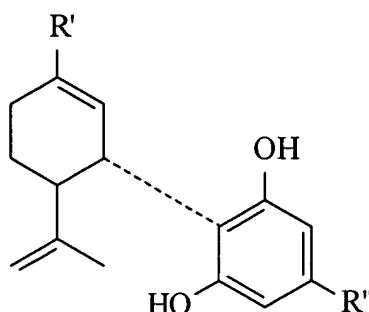
17 18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the selective treatment of disorders associated with the peripheral cannabinoid system comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula [Ia]



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH<sub>3</sub>, -COOH or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, an -OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

18 19. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of peripheral conditions, said method comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a compound of formula



Formula Ia

wherein R' designates a CH<sub>3</sub>, -COOH or -CH<sub>2</sub>OH group and R'' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, an -OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or a -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-O-C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof [as defined in claim 17] to a subject in need.

19 20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said peripheral conditions are [~~any one~~] selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, diarrhea and inflammatory pain.